(b) whether Government are also aware that Argentina's Economy has become bankrupt leading to violent food riots, massive job cuts, 18.3 per cent growth of unemployment mass protest and volatile political uncertainities in the country; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. We are aware that the Argentinean economy is facing an extremely difficult economic and social situation.

(c) Current situation in Argentina is result of certain decisions of Argentinean authorities like Currency Board Arrangement, fiscal profligacy and adverse international and internal developments which made Argentinean exports lose competitiveness in international markets. India is unlikely to be affected by crisis in Argentina.

Aluminium scam

5053. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to an appeal by All India Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers and Dealers which appeared in 'Indian Express', dated 17th April, 2002, captioned "Aluminium Scam"; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard by bringing the truth to light and the culprits to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have, after taking into account all relevant considerations, reduced the basic customs duty on aluminium from 25% to 15% with effect from 1.3.2002.

Double Tax Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius

5054. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether FDI flow will be affected if double tax avoidance treaty with Mauritius is terminated; and

(b) the amount of revenue loss to Government due to the Mauritius route during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Treaty was entered into with twin objective of avoidance of Double Taxation and encouragement of trade and investment.

(b) The amount of tax payable by an assessee depends upon the net profit accruing at the end of the accounting year. Benefits available to the resident of a Contracting State under the provisions of Double Taxation Avoidance Convention between India and Mauritius do not amount to non payment of tax which may be termed as revenue loss to the Government.

Public sector NBFIs

5055. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of public sector non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) existing at present;

(b) the total number of unregistered NBFIs existing in the country;

(c) the trend and progress of public sector NBFIs during the last three years; and

(d) in what manner value added is calculated in NBFIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA-SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the information available with them, there are 33 Public Sector NBFIs existing at present.

(b) Out of 33 Public Sector NBFIs, 5 are pending for registration.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Position of non-lapsable fund

5056. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) position of non-lapsable fund for the North East States as on today;

(b) the criteria/norms under which the fund is allocated to different States; and